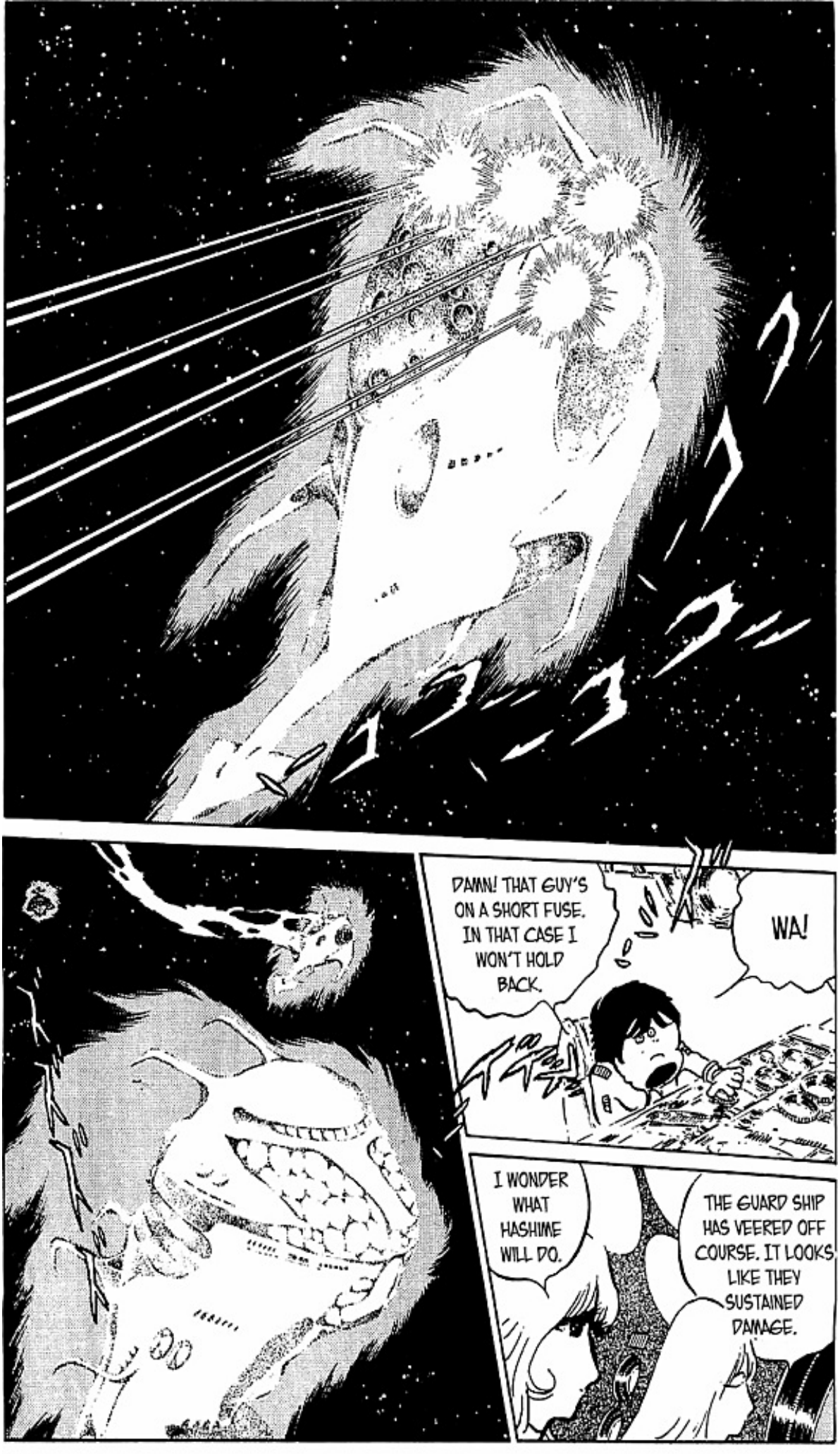
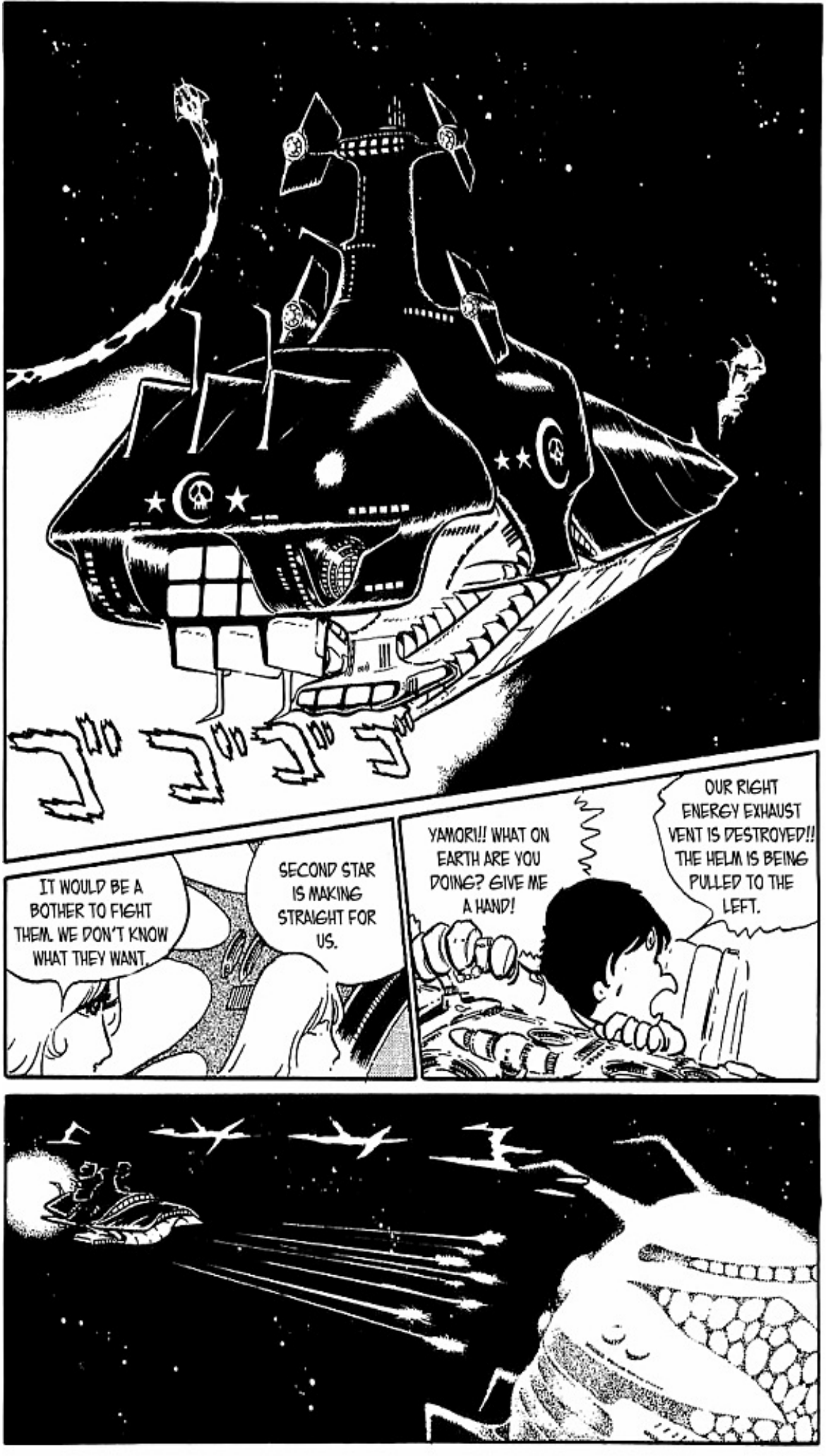
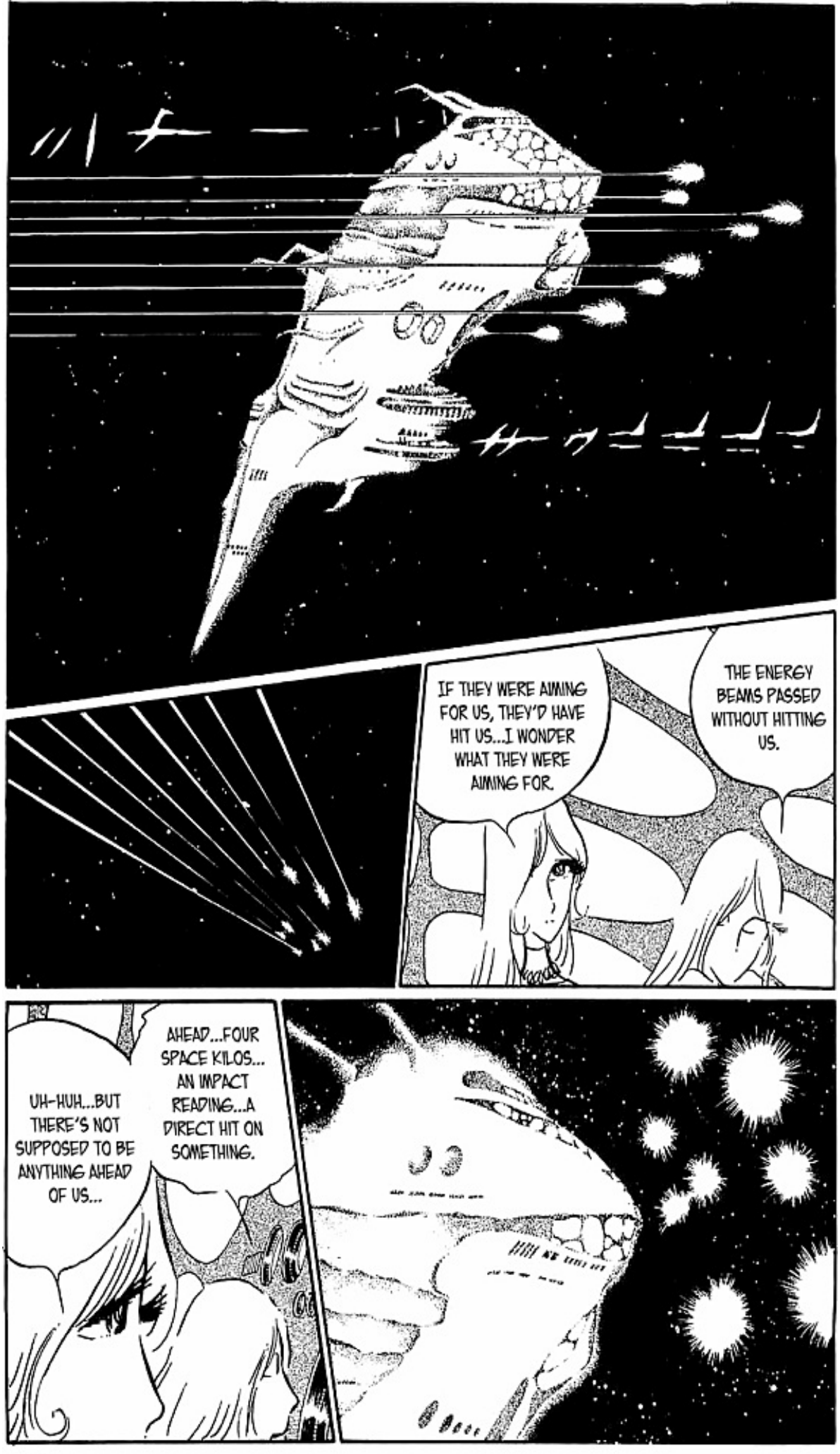
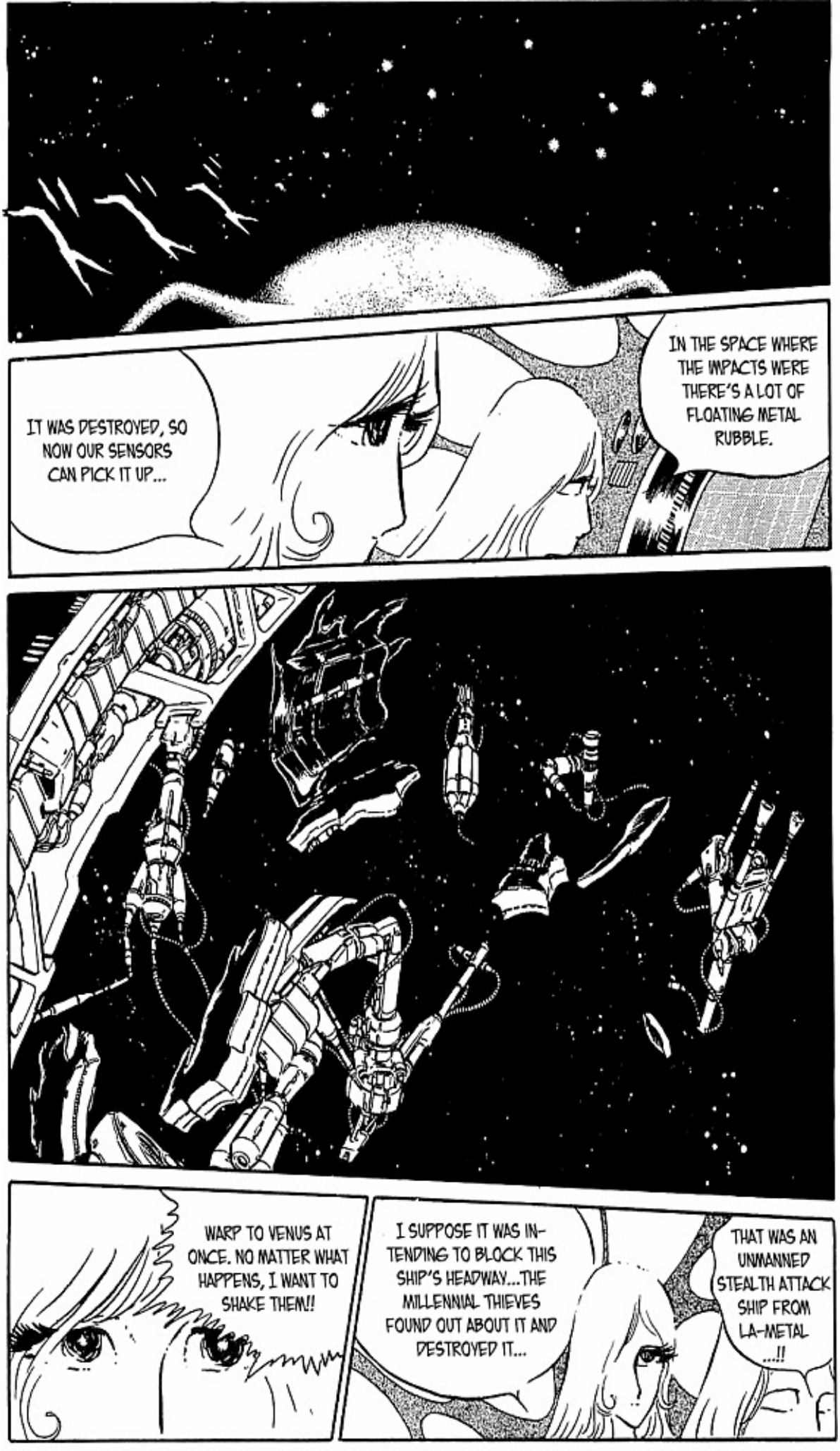
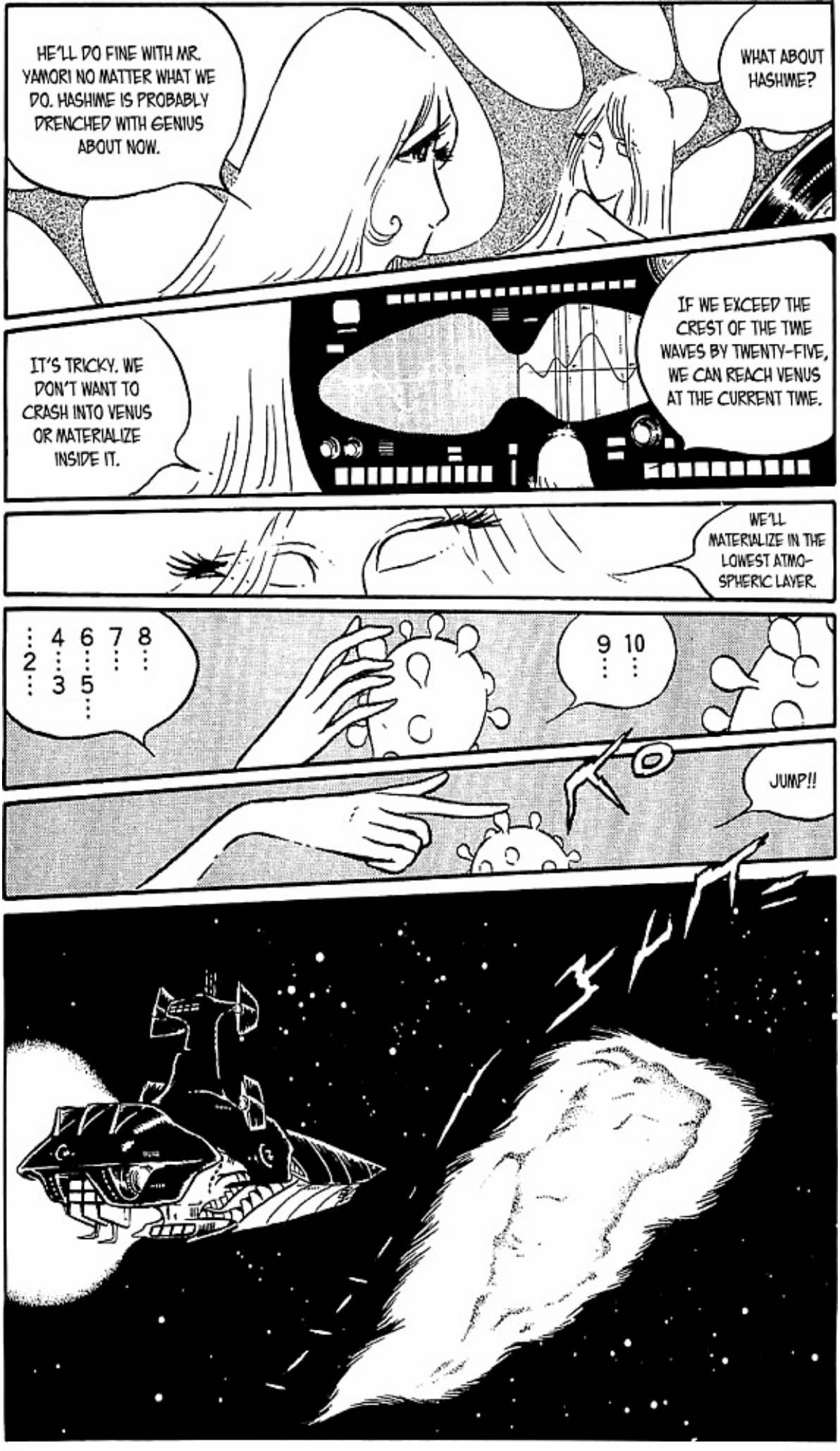
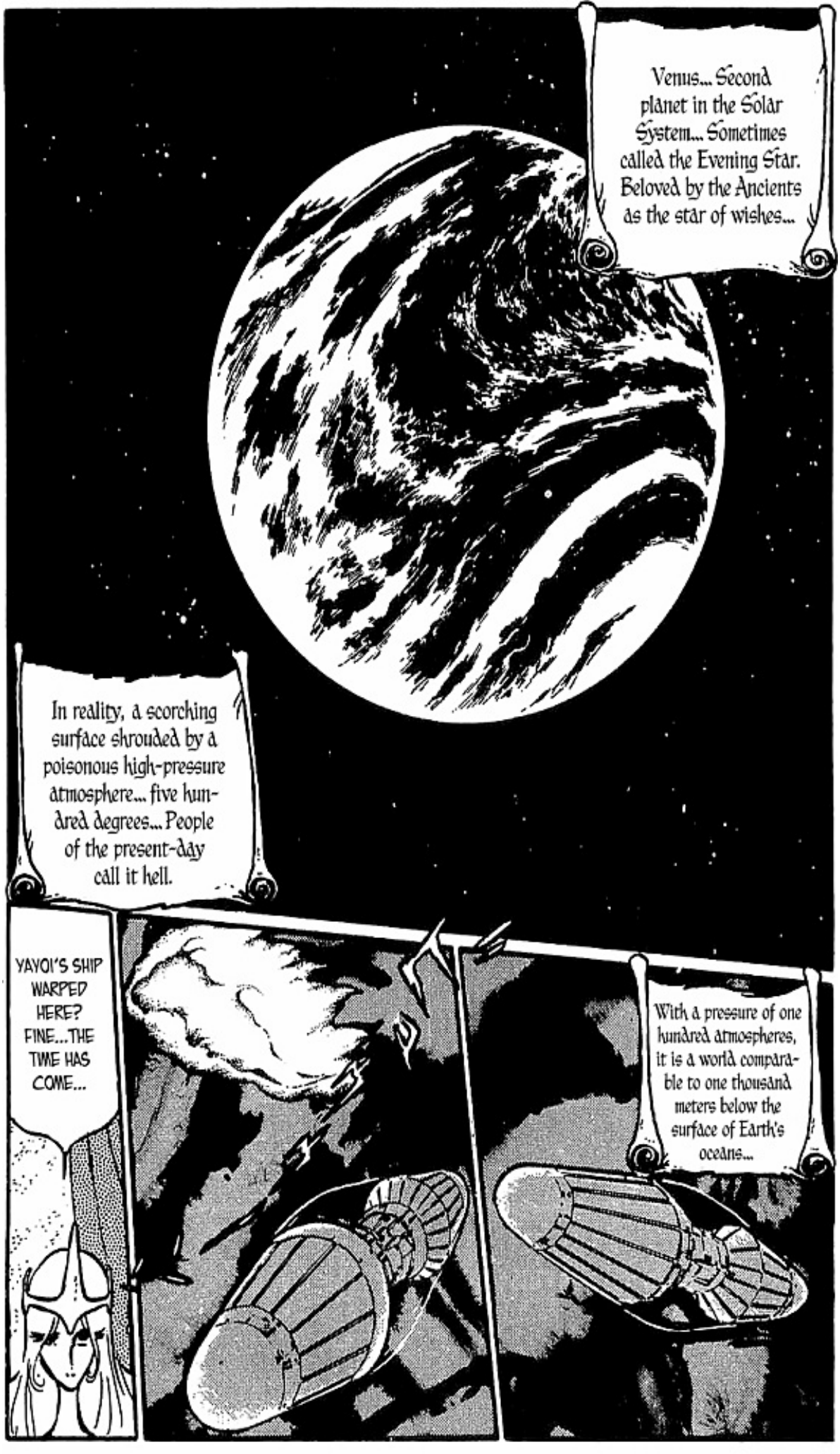

DAMN! THAT GUY'S ON A SHORT FUSE. IN THAT CASE I WON'T HOLD BACK.
WA!
I WONDER WHAT HASHIME WILL DO.
THE GUARD SHIP HAS VEERED OFF COURSE. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY SUSTAINED DAMAGE.

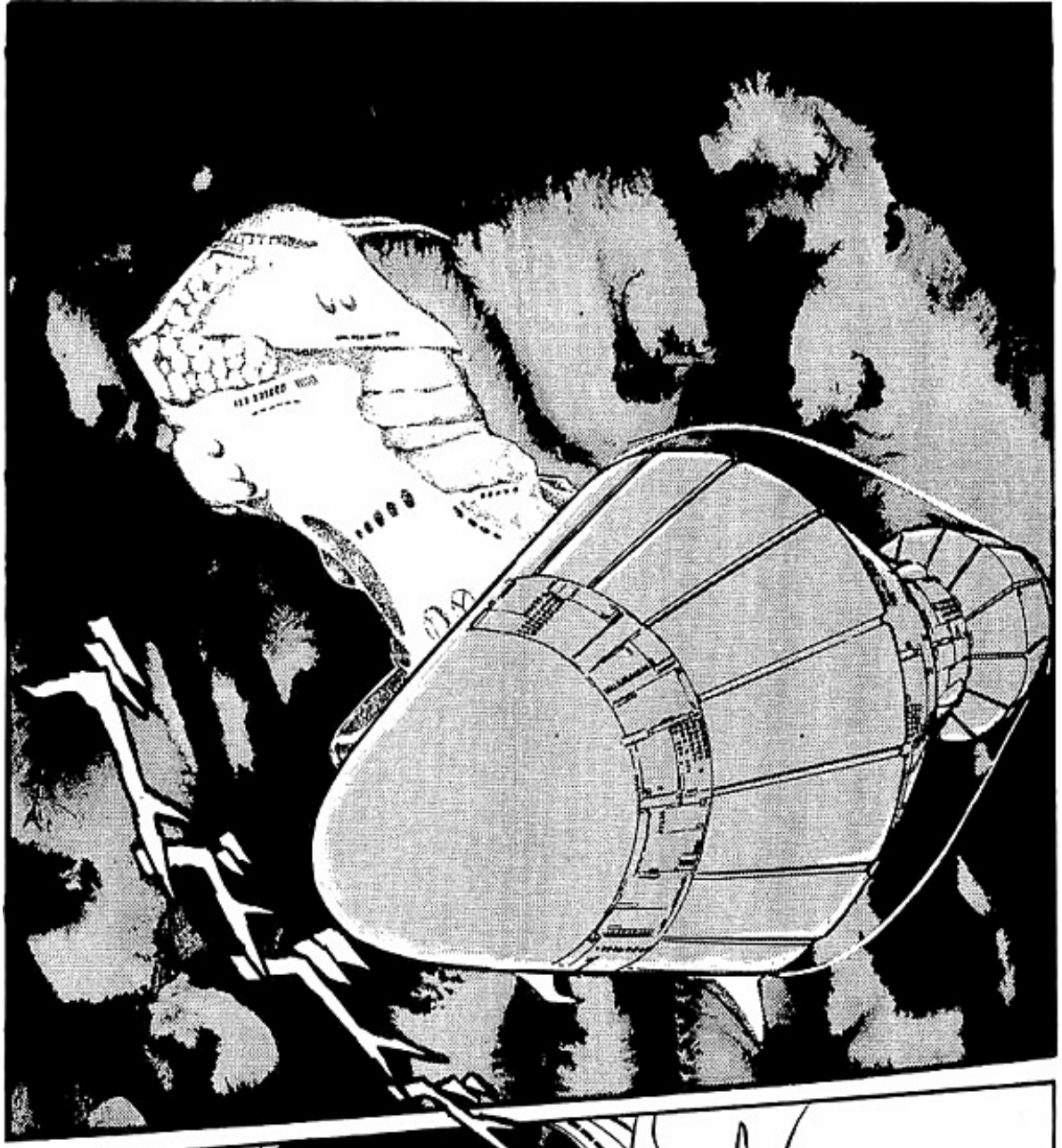

IT WOULD BE A BOTHER TO FIGHT THEM. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT.
SECOND STAR IS MAKING STRAIGHT FOR US.
YAMORI!! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING? GIVE ME A HAND!
OUR RIGHT ENERGY EXHAUST VENT IS DESTROYED!! THE HELM IS BEING PULLED TO THE LEFT.


THE ENERGY BEAMS PASSED WITHOUT HITTING US.
IF THEY WERE AIMING FOR US, THEY'D HAVE HIT US...I WONDER WHAT THEY WERE AIMING FOR.
AHEAD...FOUR SPACE KILOS... AN IMPACT READING...A DIRECT HIT ON SOMETHING.
UH-HUH...BUT THERE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ANYTHING AHEAD OF US...


IN THE SPACE WHERE THE IMPACTS WERE THERE'S A LOT OF FLOATING METAL RUBBLE.
IT WAS DESTROYED, SO NOW OUR SENSORS CAN PICK IT UP...
WARP TO VENUS AT ONCE. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WANT TO SHAKE THEM!!
I SUPPOSE IT WAS INTENDING TO BLOCK THIS SHIP'S HEADWAY...THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES FOUND OUT ABOUT IT AND DESTROYED IT...
THAT WAS AN UNMANNED STEALTH ATTACK SHIP FROM LA-METAL ...!!

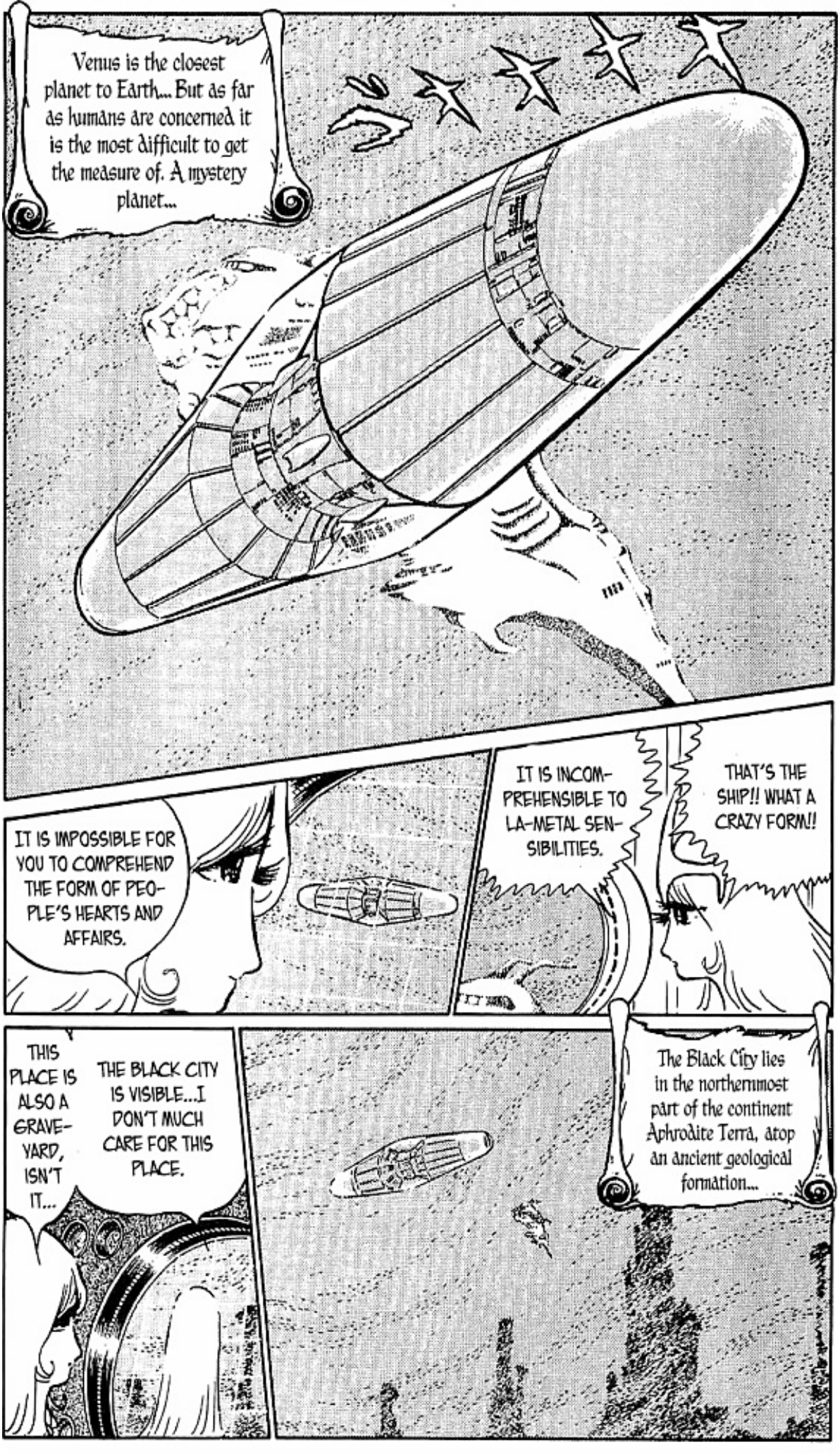

HE'LL DO FINE WITH MR. YAMORI NO MATTER WHAT WE DO. HASHIME IS PROBABLY DRENCHED WITH GENIUS ABOUT NOW.
WHAT ABOUT HASHIME?
IT'S TRICKY. WE DON'T WANT TO CRASH INTO VENUS OR MATERIALIZE INSIDE IT.
IF WE EXCEED THE CREST OF THE TIME WAVES BY TWENTY-FIVE, WE CAN REACH VENUS AT THE CURRENT TIME.
WE'LL MATERIALIZE IN THE LOWEST ATMOSPHERIC LAYER.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10
KO
JUMP!!

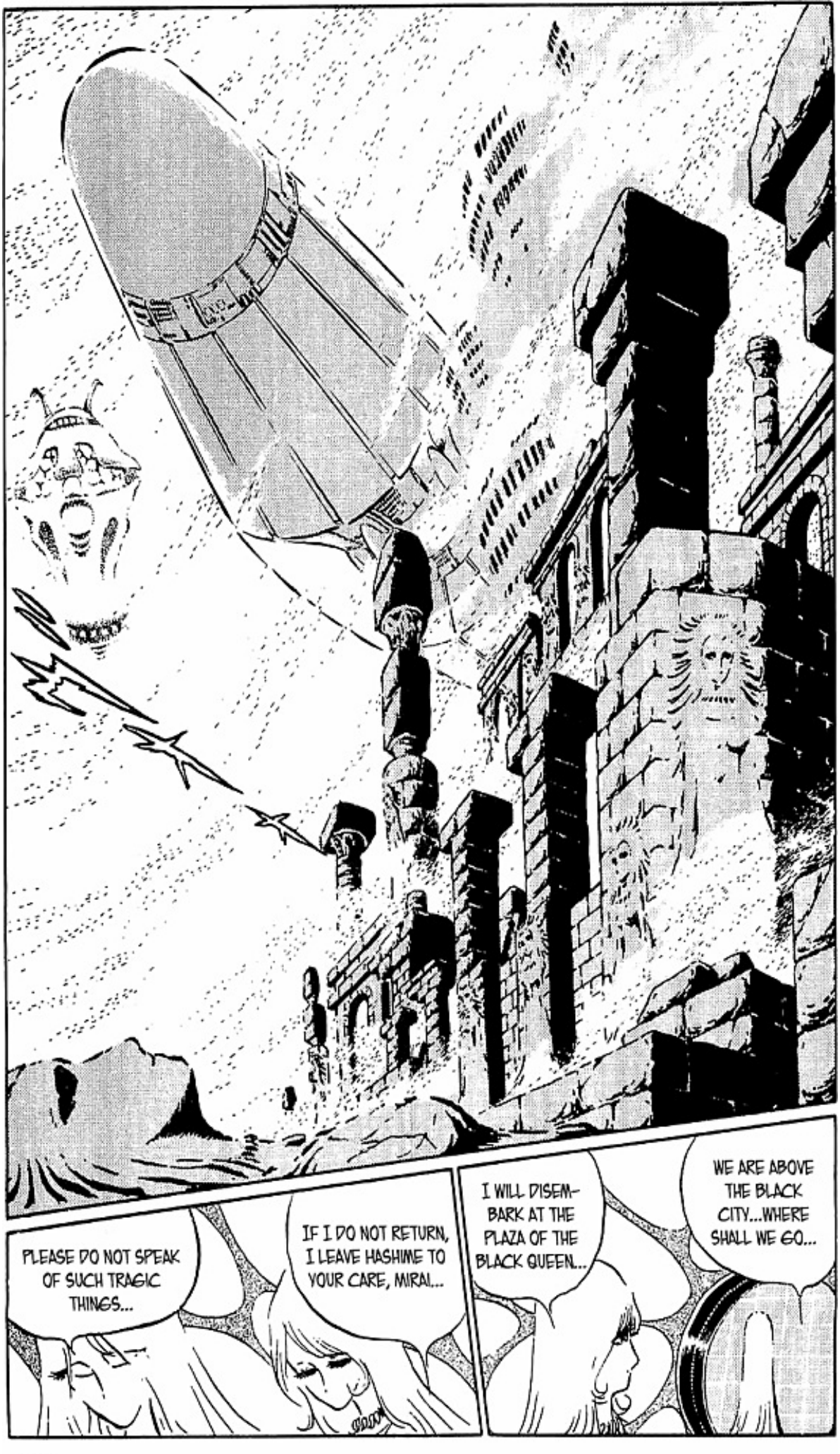

Venus... Second planet in the Solar System... Sometimes called the Evening Star. Beloved by the Ancients as the star of wishes...
In reality, a scorching surface shrouded by a poisonous high-pressure atmosphere... five hundred degrees... People of the present-day call it hell.
YAYOI'S SHIP WARPED HERE? FINE... THE TIME HAS COME...
With a pressure of one hundred atmospheres, it is a world comparable to one thousand meters below the surface of Earth's oceans...



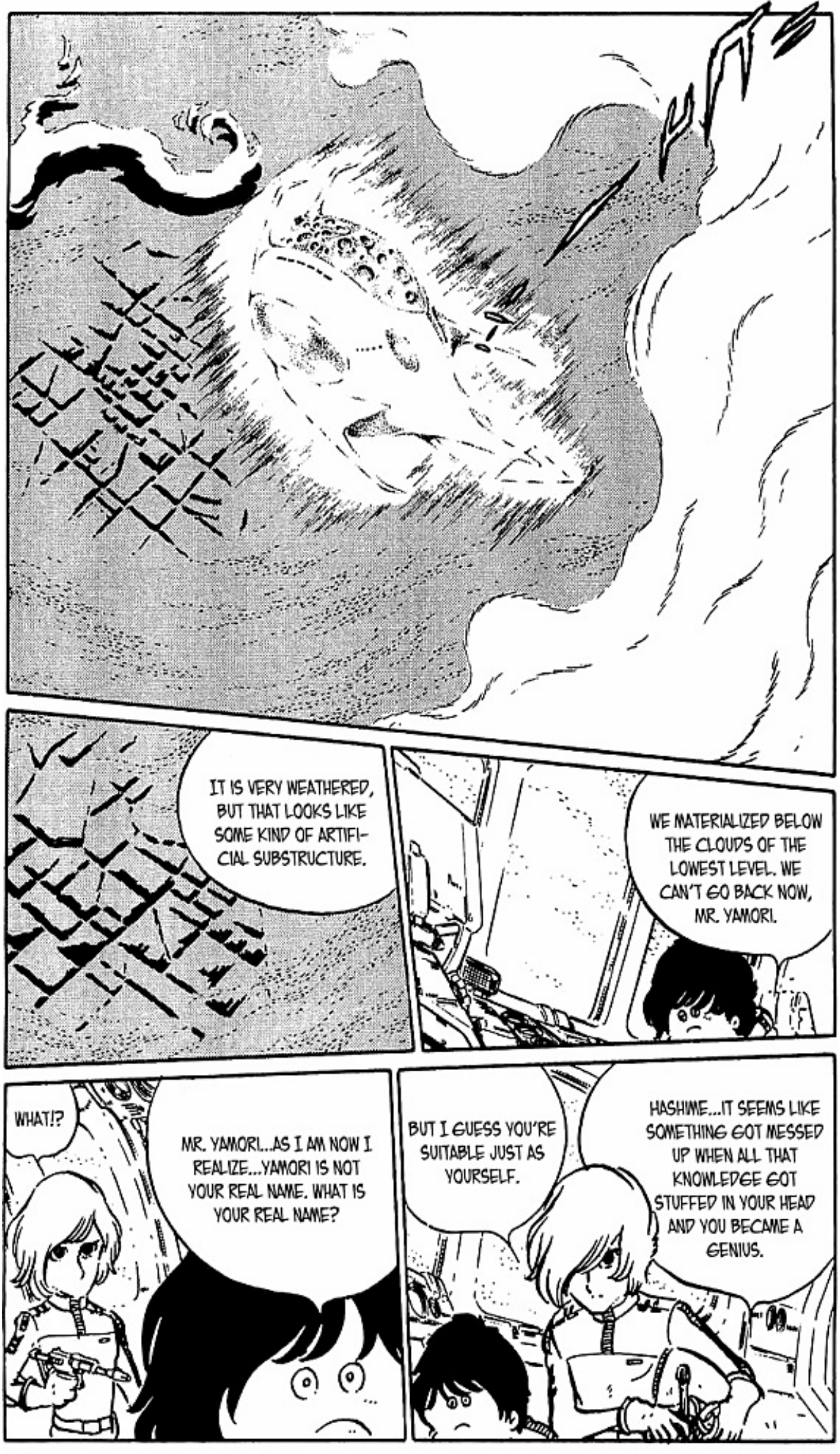
I JUDGE IT TO BE AN ORIGINAL DESIGN MADE WITH HELP FROM THE EARTHLINGS.
WHAT IS THIS SHIP? IS IT YAYOI'S? IT ISN'T A STANDARD DESIGN FROM LA-METAL!!

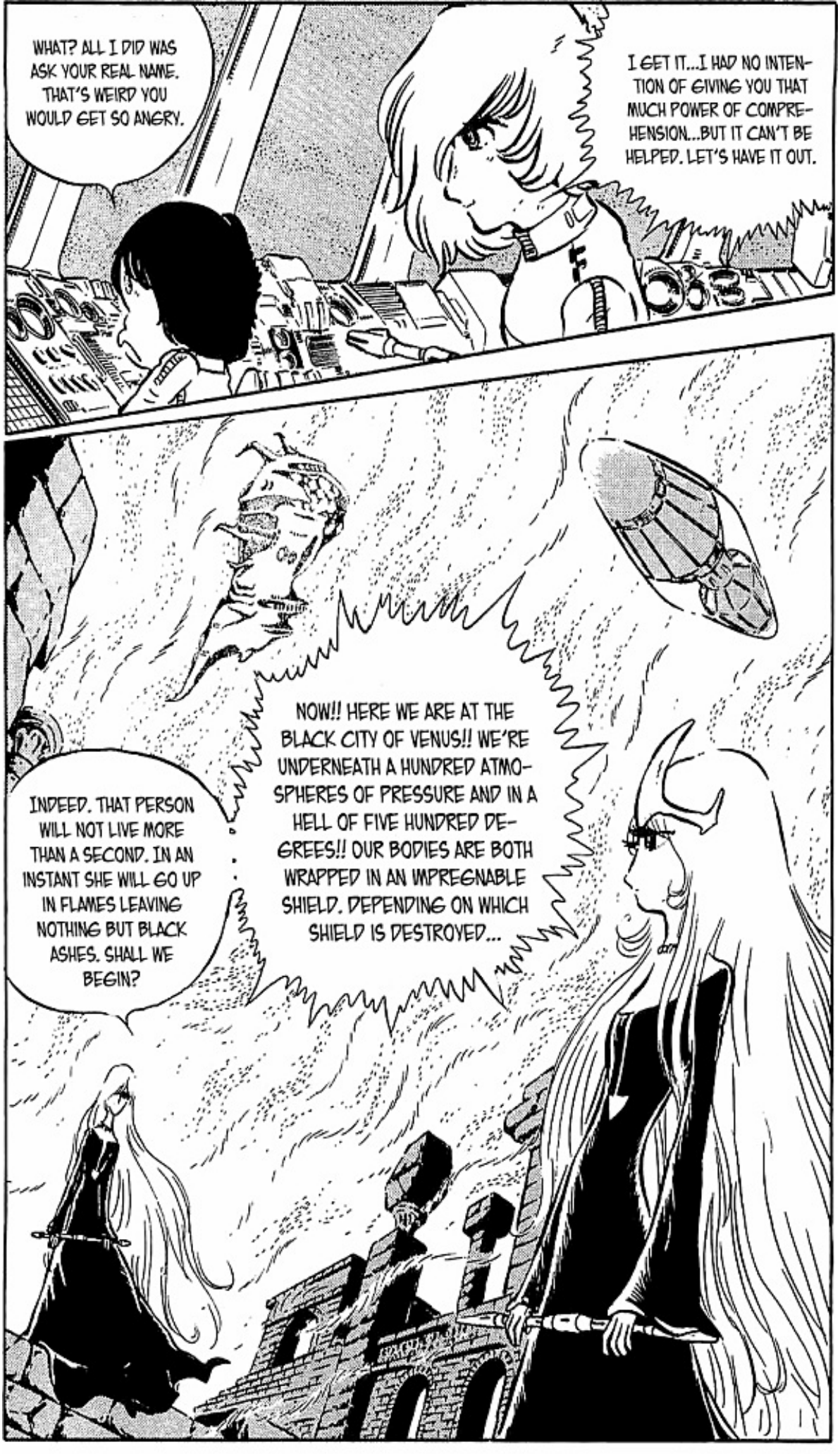
FOOLISH ONE!! YOU ARE NOT EVEN AWARE THE BLACK CITY IS REDUCED TO ASHES NOW!!
WE WILL ARRIVE AT THE BLACK CITY IN THREE MINUTES. PREPARE YOURSELF.
WITH HELP FROM THE EARTHLINGS? SUCH A WILLFUL GIRL. WHO DOES SHE THINK QUEEN MILLENNIAL IS!?


Venus is the closest planet to Earth... But as far as humans are concerned it is the most difficult to get the measure of. A mystery planet...
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO COMPREHEND THE FORM OF PEOPLE'S HEARTS AND AFFAIRS.
IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO LA-METAL SENSIBILITIES.
THAT'S THE SHIP!! WHAT A CRAZY FORM!!
THIS PLACE IS ALSO A GRAVEYARD, ISN'T IT...
THE BLACK CITY IS VISIBLE...I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR THIS PLACE.
The Black City lies in the northernmost part of the continent Aphrodite Terra, atop an ancient geological formation...

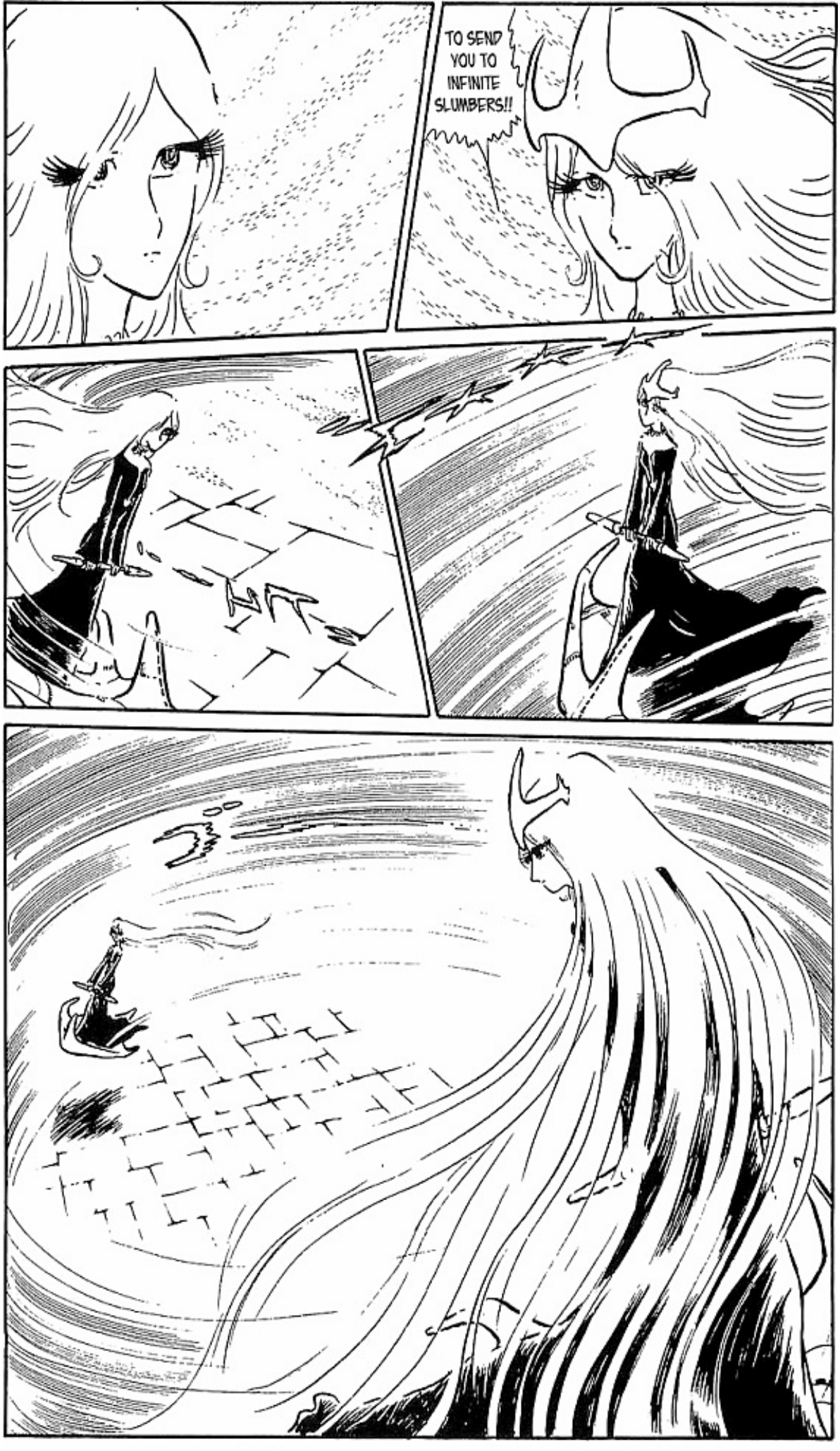

WE ARE ABOVE THE BLACK CITY...WHERE SHALL WE GO...
I WILL DISEMBARK AT THE PLAZA OF THE BLACK QUEEN...
IF I DO NOT RETURN, I LEAVE HASHIME TO YOUR CARE, MIRAI...
PLEASE DO NOT SPEAK OF SUCH TRAGIC THINGS...

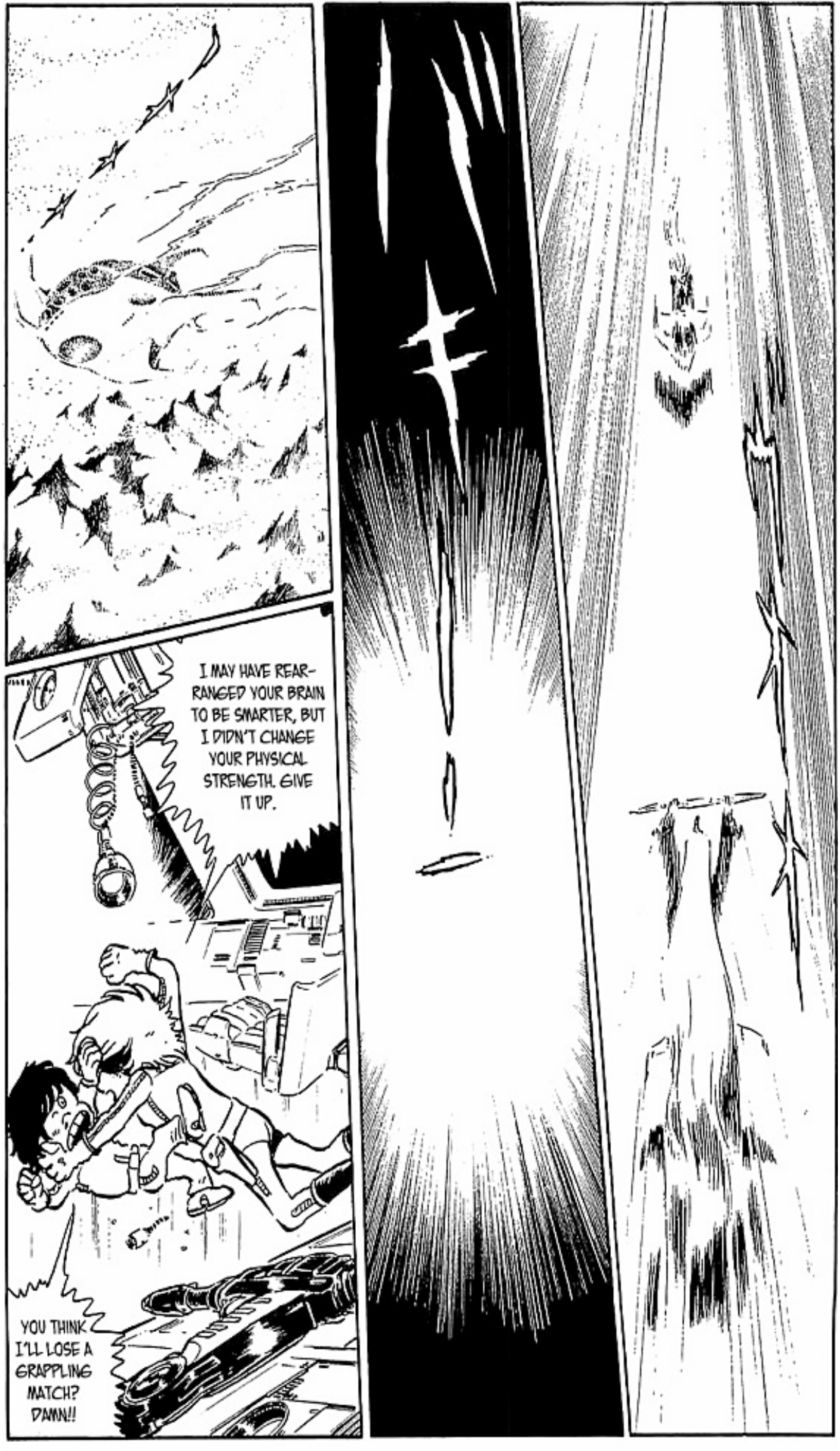
THEY WARPED OUT.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS GONE!?
HEY, HASHIME! I BROUGHT YOU A LATE-MODEL HELMET...
WARPED!?
I'M GONNA WARP TO VENUS TO FOLLOW THE QUEEN'S SHIP.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE BLACK CITY IS. BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW ABOUT VENUS.
WHY!?...
BECAUSE THAT IS A HOLY ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT!!
WHY?
IDIOT!! STOP!! YOU CAN'T FOLLOW THE QUEEN'S SHIP.
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT SOMEHOW I HAVE TO HELP HER. WE'LL MATERIALIZE OVER THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE OF VENUS IN THIRTY SECONDS.
NO! THIS IS AN INVIOLABLE RULE SINCE ANCIENT DAYS.
ANYONE WHO WITNESSES THIS DUEL...IS OBLITERATED FROM THE UNIVERSE...THAT PERSON DISAPPEARS!!


IT IS VERY WEATHERED, BUT THAT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF ARTIFICIAL SUBSTRUCTURE.
WE MATERIALIZED BELOW THE CLOUDS OF THE LOWEST LEVEL. WE CAN'T GO BACK NOW, MR. YAMORI.
WHAT!?
MR. YAMORI...AS I AM NOW I REALIZE...YAMORI IS NOT YOUR REAL NAME. WHAT IS YOUR REAL NAME?
BUT I GUESS YOU'RE SUITABLE JUST AS YOURSELF.
HASHIME...IT SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING GOT MESSED UP WHEN ALL THAT KNOWLEDGE GOT STUFFED IN YOUR HEAD AND YOU BECAME A GENIUS.


WHAT? ALL I DID WAS ASK YOUR REAL NAME. THAT'S WEIRD YOU WOULD GET SO ANGRY.
I GET IT...I HAD NO INTENTION OF GIVING YOU THAT MUCH POWER OF COMPREHENSION...BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED. LET'S HAVE IT OUT.
NOW!! HERE WE ARE AT THE BLACK CITY OF VENUS!! WE'RE UNDERNEATH A HUNDRED ATMOSPHERES OF PRESSURE AND IN A HELL OF FIVE HUNDRED DEGREES!! OUR BODIES ARE BOTH WRAPPED IN AN IMPREGNABLE SHIELD. DEPENDING ON WHICH SHIELD IS DESTROYED...
INDEED. THAT PERSON WILL NOT LIVE MORE THAN A SECOND. IN AN INSTANT SHE WILL GO UP IN FLAMES LEAVING NOTHING BUT BLACK ASHES. SHALL WE BEGIN?

NOW WE ARE ALONE...IT IS TIME!!
BEGONE!!

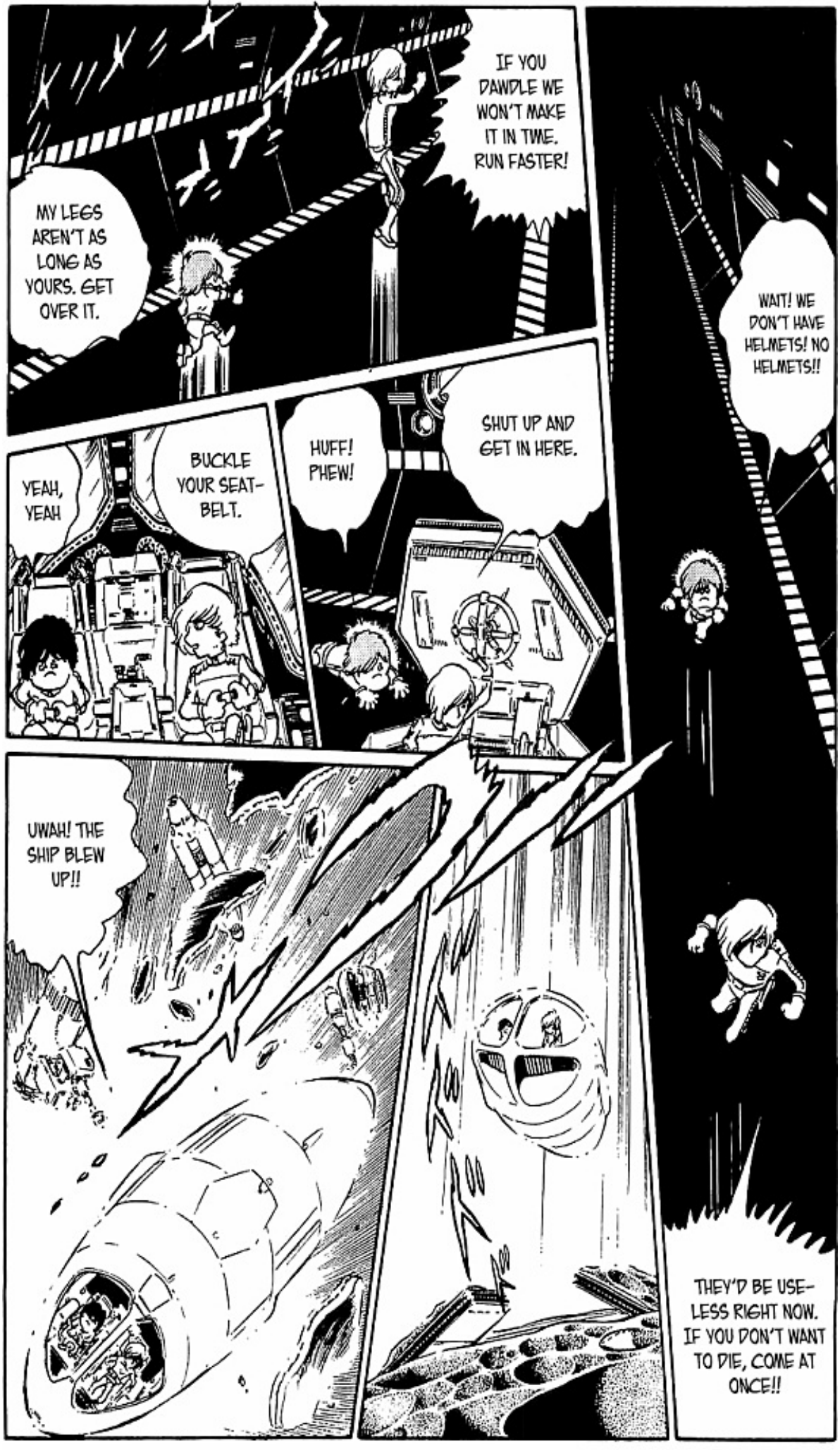

TO SEND YOU TO INFINITE SLUMBERS!!

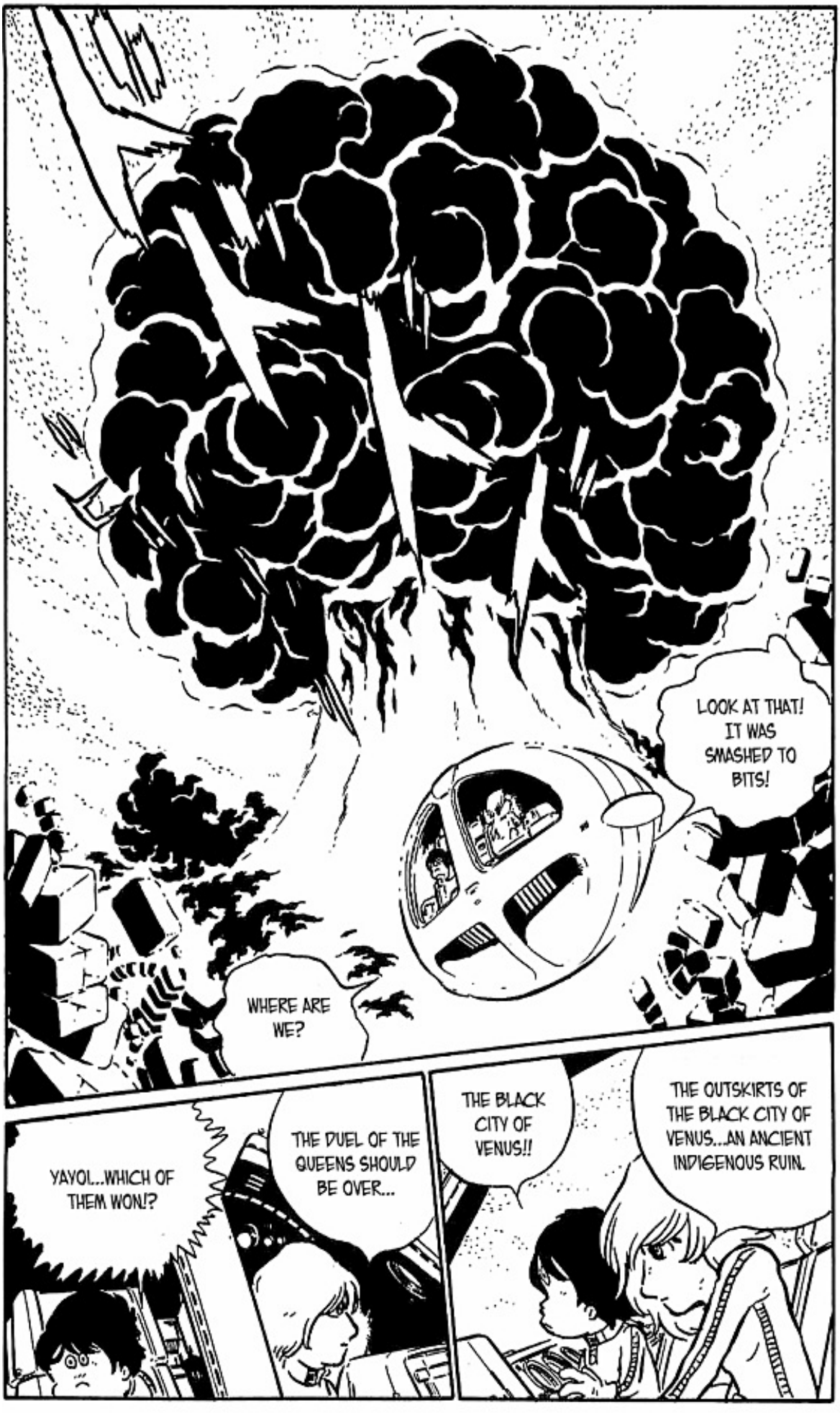

I MAY HAVE REARRANGED YOUR BRAIN TO BE SMARTER, BUT I DIDN'T CHANGE YOUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH. GIVE IT UP.
YOU THINK I'LL LOSE A GRAPPLING MATCH? DAMN!!

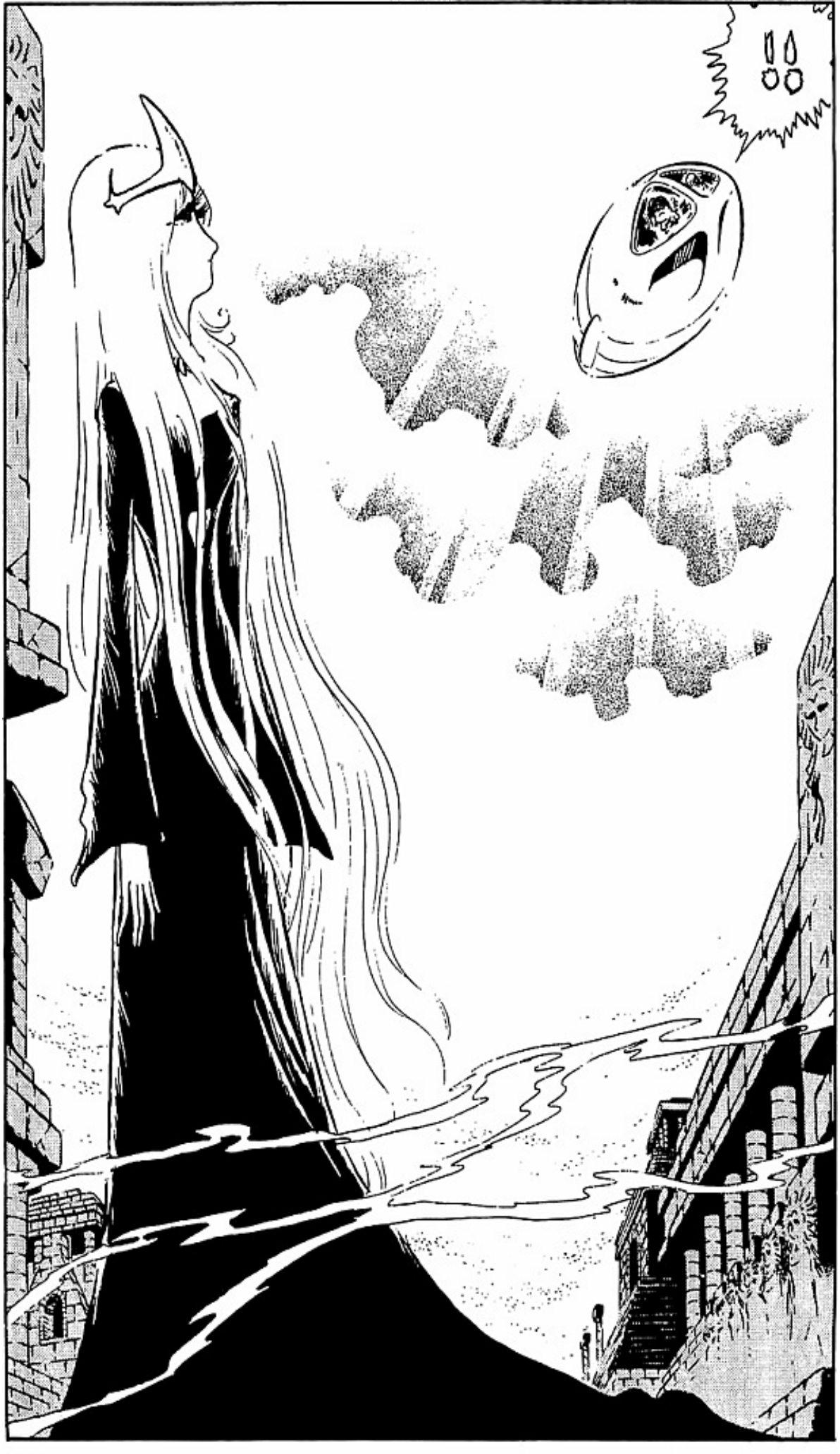
AHHH
. . . .

!!
HEY, DUMBASS, STOP THAT!! THE AUTOPILOT IS CUT OFF. WE'LL CRASH!!
ASSHOLE. YOU'RE STILL MESSING WITH ME!!

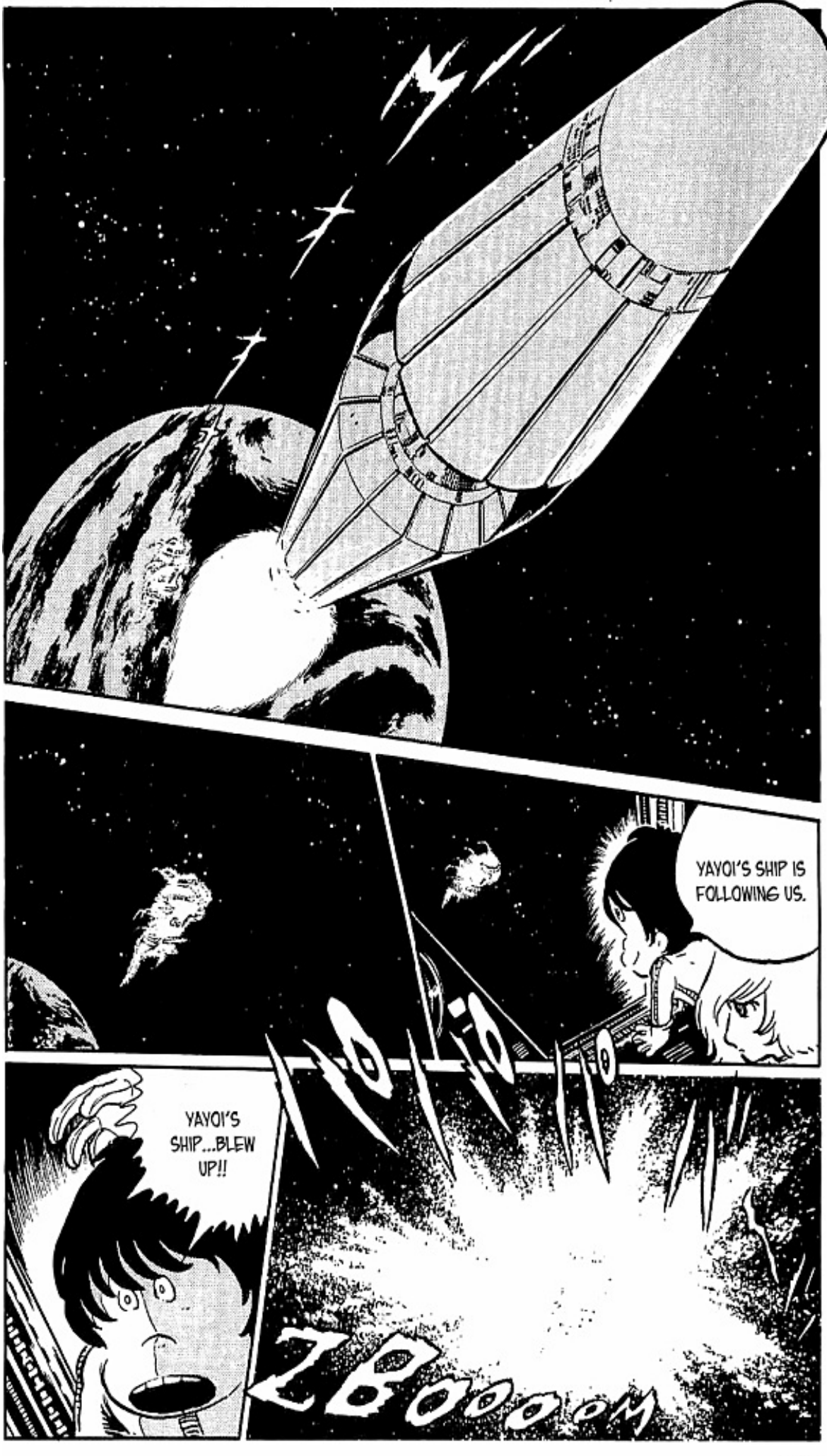
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
LOOK AT THAT, DUMBASS!! WE CRASHED INTO THE SURFACE. IT'S A MESS.
THANK GOODNESS THE ANTI-GRAV SAFETY CUSHION WAS FUNCTIONING, OR WE'D HAVE BEEN FLATTENED!!
THE SHIP IS DESTROYED. THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING INCREDIBLY HARD ON THE SURFACE... WE'RE LOSING AIR...SO IT'S BREAKING UP?

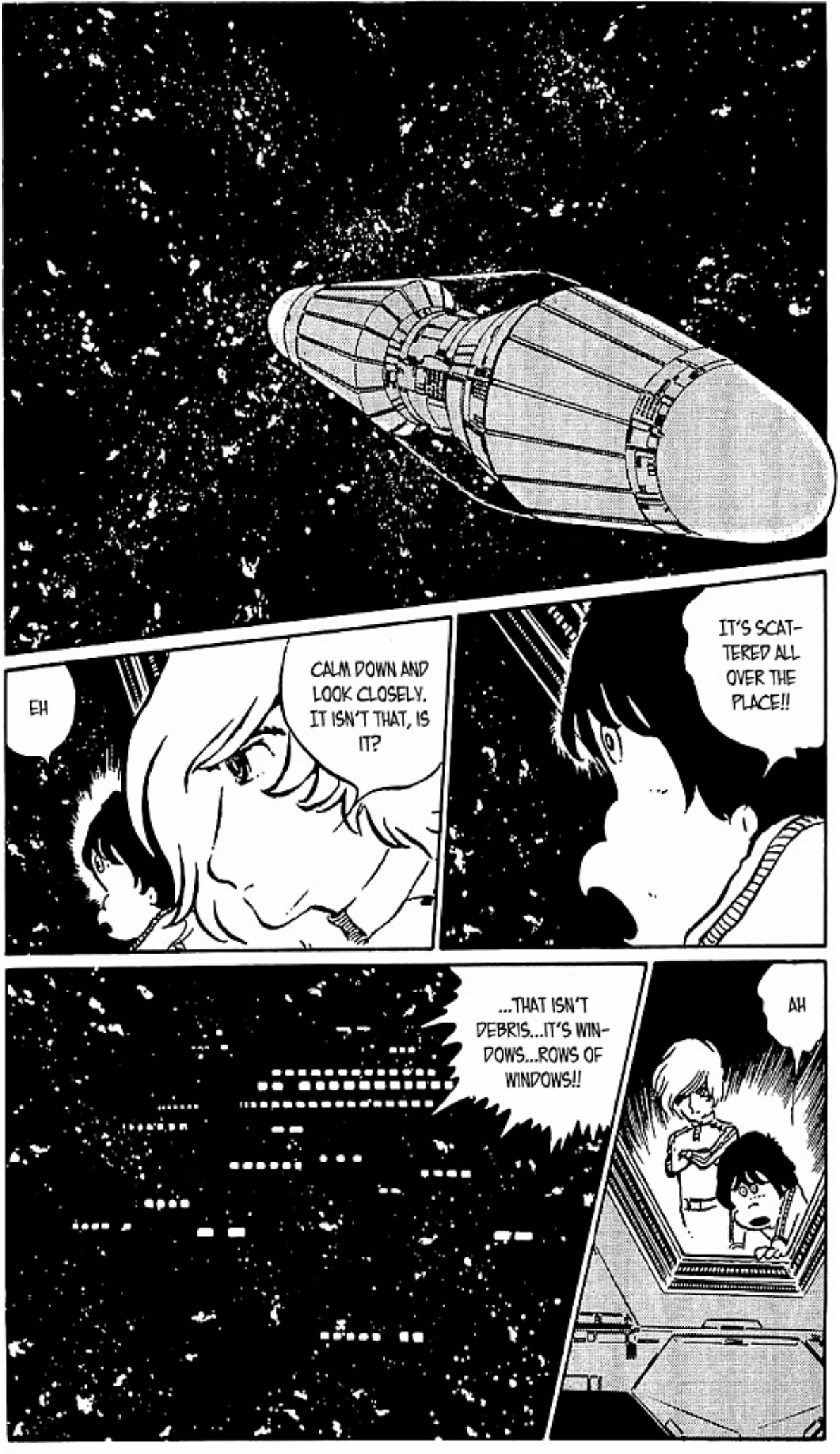

IF YOU DAWDLE WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME. RUN FASTER!
MY LEGS AREN'T AS LONG AS YOURS. GET OVER IT.
WAIT! WE DON'T HAVE HELMETS! NO HELMETS!!
SHUT UP AND GET IN HERE.
HUFF! PHEW!
BUCKLE YOUR SEAT-BELT.
YEAH, YEAH
UWAH! THE SHIP BLEW UP!!
THEY'D BE USE-LESS RIGHT NOW. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, COME AT ONCE!!


LOOK AT THAT! IT WAS SMASHED TO BITS!
WHERE ARE WE?
THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE BLACK CITY OF VENUS...AN ANCIENT INDIGENOUS RUIN.
THE BLACK CITY OF VENUS!!
THE DUEL OF THE QUEENS SHOULD BE OVER...
YAYOI...WHICH OF THEM WON!?

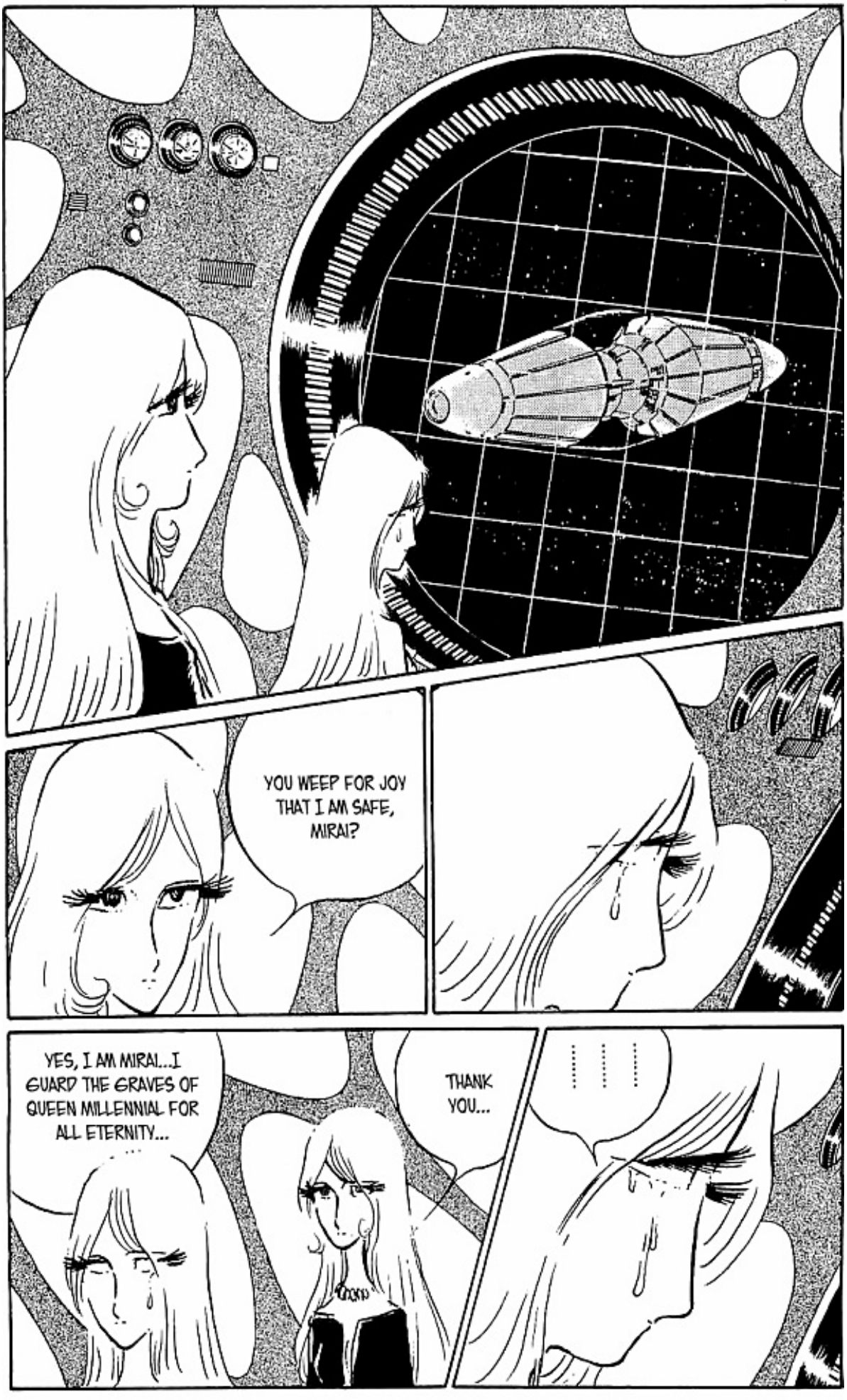


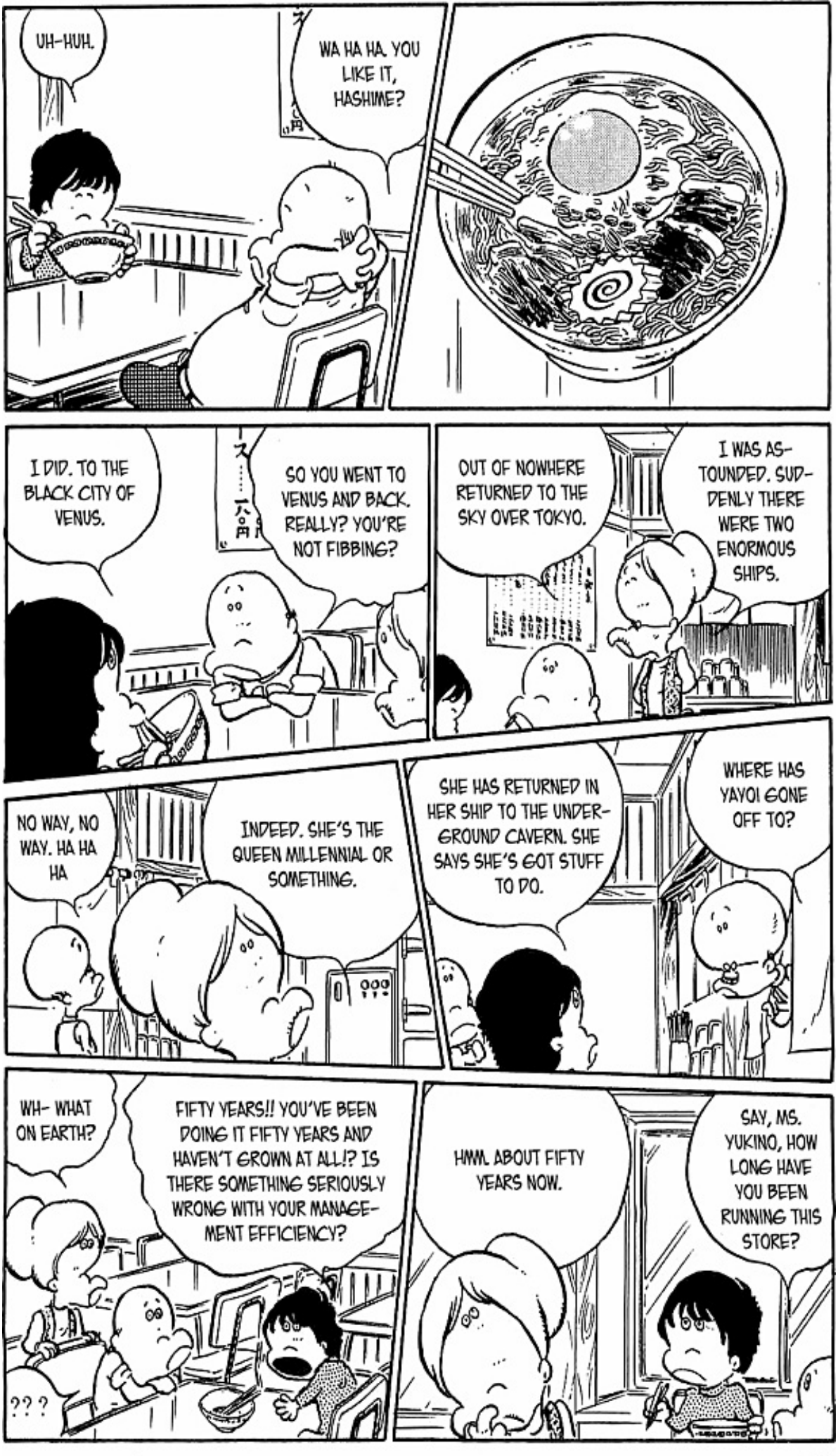
!! THAT...IS THE CROWN THE NEW QUEEN WAS WEARING...!! WHICH MEANS....WHICH MEANS...
YAYOI LOST!?
THAT'S VACANT, SO BOARD IT AND RETURN TO EARTH...IS WHAT SHE'S SAYING!!
SHE'S POINTING UPWARDS...
THAT'S THE NEW QUEEN'S SHIP...SO IF IT'S VACANT...!!


YAYOI'S SHIP IS FOLLOWING US.
YAYOI'S SHIP...BLEW UP!!
BOOOM


EH
CALM DOWN AND LOOK CLOSELY. IT ISN'T THAT, IS IT?
IT'S SCATTERED ALL OVER THE PLACE!!
...THAT ISN'T DEBRIS...IT'S WINDOWS...ROWS OF WINDOWS!!
AH

IT'S A GONDOLA FOR SHORT HOPS. FOR THE QUEEN AND MIRAI!!
P- PRIVATE VEHICLE?
IT SHED ITS CAMOU-FLAGE SKIN. IT IS QUEEN MILLENNIAL'S PRIVATE VEHICLE.
WHAT IS IT!?


YOU WEEP FOR JOY THAT I AM SAFE, MIRAI?
YES, I AM MIRAI...I GUARD THE GRAVES OF QUEEN MILLENNIAL FOR ALL ETERNITY...
THANK YOU...


UH-HUH.
WA HA HA. YOU LIKE IT, HASHIME?
I DID. TO THE BLACK CITY OF VENUS.
SO YOU WENT TO VENUS AND BACK. REALLY? YOU'RE NOT FIBBING?
OUT OF NOWHERE RETURNED TO THE SKY OVER TOKYO.
I WAS AS-TOUNDED. SUD-DENLY THERE WERE TWO ENORMOUS SHIPS.
NO WAY, NO WAY. HA HA HA
INDEED. SHE'S THE QUEEN MILLENNIAL OR SOMETHING.
SHE HAS RETURNED IN HER SHIP TO THE UNDER-GROUND CAVERN. SHE SAYS SHE'S GOT STUFF TO DO.
WHERE HAS YAYOI GONE OFF TO?
WH- WHAT ON EARTH?
FIFTY YEARS!! YOU'VE BEEN DOING IT FIFTY YEARS AND HAVEN'T GROWN AT ALL!? IS THERE SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH YOUR MANAGE-MENT EFFICIENCY?
???
HMM. ABOUT FIFTY YEARS NOW.
SAY, MS. YUKINO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RUNNING THIS STORE?

YES. I AM HASHIME AMAMORI.
ARE YOU HASHIME?
? ? ?
YOU HAVE TO IMPROVE WHILE ELIMINATING DEFICIENCIES.
IF YOU DON'T MANAGE YOUR BUSINESS EFFICIENTLY, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU WORK YOU WON'T GET ANYWHERE.
AHH
COULD IT BE...YOU...
RIGHT. THERE ISN'T ANY.
MY HAIR?
YOUR H- H- H- HAIR...
IS THERE SOMETHING INTERESTING ON MY FACE?
WA
THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED...
BETWEEN YOU AND YAYOI AND LOSING MY JOB, I'VE HAD A MOUNTAIN OF STUFF TO WORRY ABOUT. BE THANKFUL I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

Y- YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW?
SWEETHEART, IT'S AN EARTH-QUAKE.
A BIG EARTH-QUAKE!?
AN EARTH-QUAKE!!